Lakshminarayana temple, Hosaholalu, Mandya District, Karnataka

Info is be given under following headings:

Location, address, phone, how to get there. Greatness of this temple. Legends and history. Architecture of temple deities. Subdeities daily rituals and poojas, special poojas and rituals festivals, facilities for devotees...like accommodation etc. Donation info and bank acct number etc. Nearby temples. Other tourist attractions. Nearby budget hotels. Any other info...etc

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Ref: AI Overview

The Lakshminarayana Temple in Hosaholalu is a 13th-century (circa 1250 CE) Hoysala-era monument located in the Mandya district of Karnataka, near Krishnarajapete (KR Pet). Built by King Vira Someshwara, this *trikuta* (three-shrine) temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu and is noted for its intricate soapstone carvings, star-shaped plan, and detailed, well-preserved sculptural panels.

Key Details and Architecture

- **Structure:** It is a *trikuta* temple, meaning it has three sanctums (garbhagrihas). The main shrine holds Lakshminarayana, with other shrines for Venugopalaswamy and Lakshmi Narasimhaswamy.
- **Architecture:** It features a *jagati* (raised platform), a signature of Hoysala design, allowing for circumambulation. The architecture is similar in style to the temples at Somanathapura and Nuggehalli.
- **Carvings:** The outer walls feature extensive, detailed carvings depicting scenes from the Ramayana, Mahabharata, and Bhagavata Purana. The walls are adorned with 120 figurines, predominantly of Vishnu and his aspects.
- **Interiors:** The *navaranga* (hall) has four highly polished pillars with intricate, jewelry-like carvings.
- **Location & Access:** Located in Hosaholalu, roughly 3 km from KR Pete and around 45–60 km from Mysuru.
- **Visiting Info:** The temple is typically open from 6 AM to 8 PM, though some sources list 9 AM to 6 PM. It is a well-maintained site, often compared to the famous Belur and Halebidu temples.

The temple is an excellent example of late Hoysala architecture, featuring a central *shikhara* (tower) that combines Dravidian motifs with *Bhumija* styles from central India.

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Here is detailed information about the Sri Lakshminarayana Temple (also known as Lakshmi Narayana Temple) in Hosaholalu, Karnataka.

This is a beautiful, lesser-known gem of Hoysala architecture, often overshadowed by more famous ones like Belur or Halebidu, but equally magnificent in its intricate carvings.

Location, Address, Phone

Location: Hosaholalu village, Krishnarajapet (KR Pete) Taluk, Mandya District, Karnataka.

It is a small, peaceful town/village setting.

Address: SH 85, Hosaholalu, Karnataka 571426, India (near KR Pete, about 2-3 km away).

Phone: Contact numbers for priests/archakas include +91-8105577694, +91-6364168515 (Srinivas Murthy), +91-9902776395 (Shyamanna).
These can help with darshan or special poojas if the temple is closed temporarily.

How to Get There,

By Road: Easily accessible via state highways. It's about 160-170 km from Bengaluru (via Mysuru or direct routes), 45-58 km from Mysuru, 60 km from Mandya, 25 km from Melkote, and around 60 km southeast of Hassan.

Taxis, private cars, or buses to KR Pete (then short auto/local transport) are common. Roads are good for a day trip.

By Rail: Nearest major station is Mysuru Junction (well-connected). A smaller station is Hosa Agrahara (limited connectivity).

By Air: Bengaluru International Airport, then road travel.
It's often combined in itineraries with nearby Hoysala temples like Govindanahalli or Kikkeri.

Greatness of This Temple

This is one of the finest yet offbeat examples of Hoysala temple architecture from the 13th century.
It showcases exquisite soapstone (chloritic schist) carvings depicting scenes from Ramayana, Mahabharata, and other mythological stories.
UThe temple is serene, less crowded, and allows peaceful darshan and appreciation of the intricate sculptures.
It's a protected monument and a masterpiece of Vaishnava devotion.

Legends and History

Built in 1250 CE by Hoysala King Vira Someshwara (Veera Someshwara).

While primarily Hoysala, some believe it was built over an earlier structure from Ganga or Chola periods, with minor Vijayanagara additions later.

No foundation inscription exists, but dating relies on architectural style matching contemporary Hoysala sites like Javagal, Nuggehalli, and Somanathapura. It's dedicated to Vishnu as Lakshmi Narayana, symbolizing divine union and prosperity.

Architecture of Temple

Classic Hoysala style in soapstone, trikuta (three-shrined) plan with a stellate (star-shaped) base on a raised platform.

East-facing main shrine with a four-storey Vesara vimana (tower), resembling later Hoysala phases (e.g., Harnahalli).

Features navaranga (pillared hall), antarala (vestibule) for the main cell, and elaborate outer wall carvings of elephants, mythical figures, and epic panels.

The sixteen-pointed star plan is notable, with remnants of stone elephants at corners.

Deities

Main deity: Lord Lakshminarayana (Vishnu with Lakshmi, often in a combined form). The central sanctum faces east.

Subdeities

The two lateral shrines (north and south) house sub-shrines, typically for other forms of Vishnu or associated deities (common in trikuta Hoysala temples, such as Venugopala or Lakshmi Narasimha variants, though specifics vary).

Intricate carvings include depictions of other gods, goddesses, and scenes.

Daily Poojas and Rituals

This is a living temple with regular worship performed by the hereditary priests (archakas). Daily activities include:

Morning Pooja and Harathi: Typically starts around 9:00 AM (or earlier, aligning with opening), involving alankara (decoration of the deity), archana (offering flowers, tulsi, etc.), naivedya (food offering), and mangala aarti/harathi to Lord Lakshminarayana (main deity), along with the sub-deities Venugopala (southern shrine) and Lakshmi Narasimha (northern shrine).

Evening Rituals: Similar poojas and aarti in the late afternoon/evening before closing.
Standard Vishnu temple rituals like Suprabhata (waking the deity), Tulsi archana, and daily offerings are conducted for the welfare of devotees.

The temple offers free prasadam (simple food offering) to visitors on most days, as per local traditions.

Temple Timings (for Darshan and Poojas)

Timings vary slightly across sources (as it's a small, priest-managed temple, not strictly regulated like larger ones), but commonly:

Open from around 6:00 AM / 9:00 AM to evening 5:00 PM / 6:00 PM / 8:00 PM (often split: morning to noon, then afternoon/evening).

Sunrise to sunset is the general rule for the premises, but inner sanctum may close midday or when the priest steps out briefly.

If closed upon arrival, call the priest (numbers: +91-8105577694, +91-6364168515 Srinivas Murthy, +91-9902776395 Shyamanna) — they are usually very accommodating and will be open for devotees.

Special Poojas and Rituals

Archana / Special Archana: Devotees can request personalized offerings (e.g., tulsi archana, fruit offerings).

Abhisheka: Holy bath to the deity (common in Vishnu temples).

Other Sevas: May include kalyanotsava (celestial wedding) or similar on request, especially during festivals.

During festivals like Rama Navami, Krishna Janmashtami, Vaikuntha Ekadashi, or the unique Rangada Habba (April, honoring Hanuman with colorful celebrations), special poojas, processions, and community events are held with heightened rituals.

Charges / Fees for Sevas

No official published list of fixed charges is widely available online (unlike major temples with boards or websites).

As a smaller, village-level, priest-managed temple:

General Darshan and Daily Poojas: Free (no entry fee; temple is open to all).

Special Sevas / Poojas: Typically nominal donations (₹50–₹500 or so, depending on the seva like archana, abhisheka, or special aarti). These are voluntary or "as per devotee's

wish" (manasika). Exact amounts are decided on-site with the priest and often go toward temple maintenance or priest's service.

No mandatory paid tickets or advance booking systems noted. Devotees usually offer dakshina directly to the archaka after the seva.

For precise current charges or to book a special pooja (e.g., if planning a visit for a specific ritual), it's **best to contact the priests directly via the numbers mentioned** — they can guide you personally.

This temple emphasizes peaceful, uncrowded darshan and devotion over commercial aspects, so rituals feel authentic and intimate.

If you're planning a visit from Hubballi, it's a nice heritage stop en route to the Mysuru/Melkote area.

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Festivals

A notable annual fair is Rangada Habba (in April, honoring Anjaneya/Hanuman), an overnight event with villagers in colorful disguises, dancing, singing, and spraying saffron water (similar to Holi spirit).

Other Vaishnava festivals like Rama Navami, Krishna Janmashtami, and Vaikuntha Ekadashi are observed.

Facilities for Devotees (Accommodation etc.)

No major temple-run accommodation (it's a small village temple). Devotees often do day visits.

Nearby options in KR Pete, Melkote, or Mysuru. Basic facilities like parking and open space available.

Donation Info and Bank Account

No specific official bank details or online donation portal widely listed (as it's not a major managed temple like some others).
Donations can be given directly to the priests/archakas for temple maintenance or sevas. For any formal contributions, inquire on-site or via the contact numbers.

Nearby Temples

- Melkote (Cheluvarayaswamy Temple, about 25 km).
- Govindanahalli (Hoysala temple).
- Kikkeri (Brahmeshvara Temple).
- Somnathpur (Chennakeshava Temple, farther).

- Other Hoysala sites in the region.

Other Tourist Attractions

- Hemagiri Falls.
- Chunchanakatte Falls.
- Thondanur (Sri Venkata Ramana Temple).
- Shravanabelagola (Gomateshwara statue, en route from Bengaluru).
- The serene rural landscape and nearby Hemavati River.

Nearby Budget Hotels

Options are limited in Hosaholalu/KR Pete (small town).
Budget stays or lodges in KR Pete or nearby Melkote/Mysuru. Mysuru has many affordable hotels (e.g., around ₹1000-3000/night).
Day trips from Mysuru or Bengaluru are popular.

Any Other Info

Photography may be restricted inside (common in many temples). It's a peaceful spot ideal for heritage lovers. Best visited during cooler months (Oct-Mar). Combine with other Hoysala temples for a fulfilling day trip.

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Ref: Google Gemini

Sri Lakshminarayana Temple, Hosaholalu

This temple is a spectacular 13th-century Hoysala marvel.

While it is less crowded than Belur or Halebidu, its intricate stone carvings and peaceful atmosphere make it a "hidden jewel" for devotees and art lovers alike.

1. **Location, Address & Contact**

* **Address**: SLN Temple Road, Hosaholalu Village, Krishnarajpete (K.R. Pet) Taluk, Mandya District, Karnataka - 571426.

* **Phone**: +91 81055 77694 / +91 99027 76395 (Chief Priest).

* **How to Get There:**

* **By Road**: It is about 2 km from K.R. Pet, 60 km from Mandya, and 50 km from Mysuru. Well-connected by KSRTC buses from Mysuru and Hassan.
* **By Rail**: The nearest station is Mysuru Junction (50 km). You can take a local train or bus from there.
* **By A**ir: Mysuru Airport (65 km) is the closest.

2. **Greatness & Legends**

* **The "New Gems" Legend**: Local folklore says that while the temple was being built, glittering precious stones (gems) were found buried in the soil.

The village was named Hosa-Haralu ("New Gems"), which eventually became Hosaholalu.

* **Architectural Peer**: It is often said that to understand Hoysala art, one must see Belur from the inside, Halebidu from the outside, but Hosaholalu from both.

3. **History & Architecture**

* **History**: Built in 1250 CE by King Vira Someshwara of the Hoysala Empire.

* **Architecture**: It is a Trikutachala (three-shrine) temple built on a high Jagati (star-shaped platform).

* **The Exterior**: **The base features six horizontal friezes (carvings) depicting:**

  * Elephants (strength)
  * Horses (speed)
  * Leafy Scrolls (decoration)
  * Scenes from Epics (Ramayana, Mahabharata, and Bhagavata Purana)
  * Makaras (mythical sea creatures)
  * Hamsas (swans)

4. **Deities & Sub-Deities**

* **Main Deity (East Shrine):** Sri Lakshminarayana.
Lord Vishnu is seated with Goddess Lakshmi on his lap.

* **North Shrine**: Sri Prahlada Lakshmi Narasimha.

A unique idol where the young devotee Prahlada is seen alongside the Lord.

* **South Shrine**: Sri Venugopala Swamy. Lord Krishna is shown playing the flute under a Kalpavriksha tree.

* **Other Sculptures**: Look for the exquisite carvings of Yoga-Madhava, Dancing Saraswathi, Brahma, Ganesha, and a rare statue of Parvathi slaying Mahishasura.

5. **Rituals, Poojas & Festivals**

* **Daily Timings:** Generally open from 6:00 AM – 12:30 PM and 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM.
* **Daily Poojas**: Regular Abhisheka and Archana are performed. It is best to visit during the morning hours to witness the morning rituals.

* **Special Festivals**:

* **Rangada-habba (April):** The most unique festival here. It is an overnight fair in honor of Anjaneya (Hanuman).
Devotees wear colorful disguises, sing, and spray saffron water on each other, similar to Holi.
* **Vaikunta Ekadashi:** Celebrated with grand floral decorations.

* **Radha Sapthami**: Marked by special chariot processions.

6. **Facilities & Donation Information**

* **Accommodation**: There are no major lodges in the village itself.

However, K.R. Pet (2 km away) offers several budget hotels:

* New Sai Residency
* Hotel SSR Residency
* Hotel Ramadas

* **Facilities**: Basic amenities like drinking water and restrooms are available.

The temple is an ASI-protected site, so it is well-maintained and clean.

* **Donations**: As this is an ASI monument under the Muzrai department, donations for poojas can be made directly at the temple office.

For bank transfers, it is recommended to contact the priest directly to ensure the funds reach the local committee or trust.

7. **Nearby Attractions & Temples**

* Hemagiri Waterfalls (8 km): A beautiful spot on the Hemavathi River, perfect for a short picnic.
* Kallahalli (6 km): Home to the massive 18-foot monolithic Bhoo Varaha Swamy temple.
* Melukote (25 km): Famous for the Cheluvanarayana Swamy Temple and Yoga Narasimha Temple.
* Govindanahalli (20 km): Known for the unique five-shrined Panchalingeshwara temple.

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Here are the contact details for 2 or 3 reliable hotels located directly in K.R. Pet, which is the town nearest to the Hosaholalu Lakshminarayana Temple (about 2 km away).
I should clarify that Hotel SSR Residency and New Sai Residency (mentioned previously) are actually located in Mandya City, which is about 60 km (a 1.5-hour drive) from the temple. For a more convenient visit, the following options in K.R. Pet are much closer:

1. **Royal Comforts (Best in Town)**

This is generally considered the best-maintained hotel in the area and is very close to the K.R. Pet bus stand.
* **Phone**: +91 79757 40667 / +91 90192 52430
* **Address**: Mysore Road, Near KSRTC Bus Stand, K.R. Pet.

2. **Preetham Residency**

A reliable budget option located on the main road, making it easy to find transportation to the temple.
* **Phone**: +91 90087 38611
* **Address**: Mysore-Channarayapatna Main Road, K.R. Pet.

3**. T. J. Residency & Lodge**

Another standard lodging option used frequently by travelers visiting nearby temples.
* **Phone**: 08230-262199 / +91 91640 07442
* **Address**: Mysore Main Road, K.R. Pet.

4. **Hotel Ramadas (Sri Ramadas Lunch Home & Hotel)**
It is a very well-known landmark in K.R. Pet, primarily famous for its food, but it also offers basic lodging.
* **Phone**: +91 94803 62673
* **Address**: Opposite Police Station, T.B. Circle Main Road, K.R. Pet.
Tip for your visit:
Since Hosaholalu is only 2 km from these hotels, you can easily find an auto-rickshaw at the K.R. Pet Bus Stand or T.B. Circle to take you to the temple. The ride should take less than 10 minutes.

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Shivaratri celebrations

Since Sri Lakshminarayana Temple is a Vaishnava (dedicated to Lord Vishnu) temple, Maha Shivaratri—which is primarily a festival for Lord Shiva—is not the main annual festival here.

However, given that tomorrow is Maha Shivaratri (Sunday, February 15, 2026), here is how the festival is observed in and around Hosaholalu:

Shivaratri at Lakshminarayana Temple

* **Atmosphere**: While there are no grand "Shivotsava" rituals like those in Shiva temples, the temple remains a peaceful place for devotees who are on a Jaagarane (all-night vigil).
* **Rituals**: You will find special morning Alankaras and Archana performed. Many devotees visit this temple as part of a "temple run" during Shivaratri, as it is a common tradition in Karnataka to visit multiple holy shrines on this auspicious day.

* **Opening Hours**: On Shivaratri, temples often extend their evening hours or open earlier in the morning (around 5:30 AM) to accommodate the influx of devotees traveling through the K.R. Pet temple circuit.

Major Shivaratri Celebrations Nearby

If you are visiting Hosaholalu for Shivaratri, **you should definitely visit these two Shiva temples in the immediate vicinity where the festival is celebrated with great fervor:**

* **Kote Bhyraveshwara Temple (Hosaholalu):**

* Located within the same village (walking distance).

* **Ritual**: Being a Shiva temple, they perform Panchamrutha Abhisheka and Bilwa Archana throughout the night of Shivaratri.

* **Sri Panchalingeshwara Temple (Govindanahalli) - 6 km away**

* This is a rare and stunning Panchakuta (five-shrine) Shiva temple.

* **Shivaratri Highlight:** It is one of the most significant places to witness Shivaratri in the district. The five Lingas are decorated beautifully, and the "Jaagarane" (night vigil) with bhajans is a soul-stirring experience.

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Budget Hotels in K.R. Pet (Contact Info)

Here are the contact numbers for the most reliable budget stays in the town of K.R. Pet (2 km from the temple):

Hotel Name	Contact Number	Location Note
Royal Comforts	+91 79757 40667	Near KSRTC Bus Stand (Best quality)
Preetham Residency	+91 90087 38611	Main Road, easy for transport
Hotel Ramadas	+91 94803 62673	Famous for food; basic rooms
T. J. Residency	+91 91640 07442	Near T.B. Circle

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Photos

Polished pillars and decoration

Vimana and exquisite relief

Lakshminarayana temple

The Jagati (platform)

Ornate relief work

Shrine and superstructure

Close up of bas relief

Wall relief

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Videos

Lakshminarayana temple, Hosaholalu (16 min):

https://youtu.be/M4DXtWRnpcs?si=h8EPfqOQxyTYKLPb

Lakshminarayana temple, Hosaholalu (8 min):

https://youtu.be/nK1XkHLk8Xg?si=9yDjPAT6oMJymaGR

Lakshminarayana temple, Hosaholalu (16 min):

https://youtu.be/zMGPquB1r3Y?si=dmg5FJDE-dHDFXIe

Lakshminarayana temple, Hosaholalu (11 min):

https://youtu.be/25ZaE5QQu-Y?si=0Qdh6S1MvN4Q0JQ6

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Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar
February 14, 2026

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